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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1947.

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"Rebel" MPs Defeated

London, Dec. 17.—Labour Party "rebels" forced a vote in the House of Commons tonight against the Government proposals to pay £240,000 annually to Princess Elizabeth and £10,000 annually to her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, to carry out their Royal duties. The Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee, intervened in the lively debate to appeal for support, but the rebels refused to give way and insisted on a vote on their amendment to pay the Royal couple £10,000 annually for personal expenditure with the provision for expenditure on their Royal duties to be paid as necessary by the Treasury. They were defeated by 345 votes to 33.—Reuter

TUC Campaign To Bring Down Prices

London, Dec. 17.—The General Council of the 8,000,000-strong Trades Union Congress today unanimously accepted its "crisis" committee's economic report, which is understood to urge a nationwide campaign by organised trade unionists to bring down prices and check profiteering.

The report was prepared by the special committee after extensive enquiries into the development of Britain's wages, prices and taxes under the inflationary pressure created by the austere shortages and after repeated consultations with Government departments. Today's meeting of the General Council said that the report "emphasised the responsibility resting upon trade unions in the present difficult circumstances of the country and also directed attention to the vital importance of maintaining price stability" by the Government.

SUPPORT FOR DEVIN

The General Council today passed a resolution expressing its profound disappointment that the Foreign Ministers' Conference failed to reach agreement on the peace treaties with Germany and Austria. The Council congratulated the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, on his efforts to reach a resolution and pledged support to him and the Government in the work for the establishment of permanent peace and the economic rehabilitation of Europe. The Council emphatically approved the Marshall plan. In a statement issued for the guidance of TUC representatives for the Executive meeting of the World Federation of Trade Unions, the Council approved the principle of aid to Europe and described Mr. Marshall's ideas as a statesmanlike approach to the problems of Europe. It also congratulated American labour on its contribution to U.S. understanding of the European position.—Reuter

EDITORIAL

A Suggestion Repeated

SEVERAL months ago we suggested that members of the pre-war Hongkong Automobile Association should revive that organisation to meet new needs created by the Colony's fast-increasing private traffic. Nothing has so far been done in the matter, but there is reason to believe a sufficient number of former members of the HKAA have now returned to Hongkong to make the proposition practical. More than 10,000 licensed vehicles are making daily use of the Colony's roads, and traffic problems, especially on the island's congested main streets, have assumed perplexing proportions. The traffic authorities and their advisory committee are rightly expected to resolve these problems, but they could be materially assisted by the interest, advice, and suggestions of a competent Automobile Association. Many useful functions could be performed by such a body. Inspectors could patrol public parking spaces, thus affording protection to cars otherwise exposed to the quick fingers of petty pilferers. As it did in its first state, the Association could compile registers of qualified chauffeurs and members who require them. Before the war the Association not only tested

TRUMAN SIGNS INTERIM AID BILL

China Not Included

Washington, Dec. 17.—President Truman signed the interim aid bill today and \$150,000,000 became automatically available for immediate relief to France, Italy and Austria.

President Truman signed the bill without any ceremony. It was announced at the same time that he had tentatively decided to send his Marshall plan message to Congress on Friday.

It was understood that this may be put off again if Congress, due to go into recess on that day decides that it is unable to finish the work in time and had to continue until next week.

Even before President Truman had signed the stop-gap aid bill, emergency shipments of American coal and grain were moving towards France as a first dividend of this measure.

State Department officials disclosed that cargoes of American supplies to be paid for with United States funds left east coast ports within the past few days in anticipation of President Truman's action.

HOUSE APPROVES

The House of Representatives approved today the appropriations bill granting \$500,000,000 for emergency winter relief to France, Italy and Austria and \$230,000,000 for American occupation costs in Germany, Japan and Korea.

The bill, approved by a comfortable margin, was immediately sent to the Senate. Once that Chamber approves or amends the Appropriations Act the interim foreign aid legislation will have been completed. This is expected on Friday.

The money bill was adopted by a voice vote. An earlier of its overwhelming approval by the House was the rejection, by 167 to 55 votes of a motion to recommend the bill to committee. The Appropriations Act, as passed, represents a reduction of \$88,000,000 in the \$597,000,000 relief programme for France, Italy, Austria and China, authorised by Congress earlier this week.

CHINA EXCLUDED

No substantial changes, apart from the total exclusion of China from the relief funds, were made in the programmes as a result of the Appropriations Committee's reduction.

The bill passed today merely reiterated the previous insistence by Congress that 150,000,000 bushels of wheat should be retained in the United States at all times, at the expense of European grain shipments, if necessary.

The funds granted under the Appropriation Act for American military expenses in the U-zone of Germany and other American occupation areas represent a cut of \$260,000,000 originally requested by the Army. Some observers predicted that the Senate Appropriations group would approve the bill without amendment. It would then go to the White House for immediate signature, slightly over four weeks since President Truman called a special session of Congress. If there were any disagreement over the final amount in the Senate, the bill would probably be the subject of a conference between the two Houses.

\$88,000,000 CUT

The House Appropriations Committee made an \$88,000,000 cut in the emergency foreign aid programme yesterday.

The Committee also reduced from \$400,000,000 to \$230,000,000 the Army had requested for the government and relief in occupied areas.

While the Committee recommended no funds for China, it is said that the \$88,000,000 reduction would leave a reserve for use in China in the event of an aid programme being begun here.

The largest reduction was in the fund for the army government and relief in occupied areas, amounting to 53 percent. The Committee cut \$137,000,000 from the army request for \$277,000,000 for food and relief in the British occupied zone of Germany and trimmed \$123,000,000 from food and relief estimates for the United States "occupied" areas in Germany, Japan and Korea.

QUICK ACTION

Only on Monday, Congress sent President Truman the legislation approving the \$597,000,000 programme for help to France, Italy, Austria and China.

President Truman had called Congress into a special session on November 17 last and had asked for a sum of \$597,000,000 to help France, Italy and Austria to get through the winter and resist Communism.

The bill sent to President Truman only gave Congressional approval for the idea of aid and set \$597,000,000 as the maximum which could be provided.

Separate legislation was required to provide the funds. That was the bill the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee recommended today.—Reuter

Big Three May Meet In Washington

London, Dec. 17.—The possibility of an American-British-French conference in Washington soon to merge the Western occupation zones of Germany was reported today.

Ranking delegates of the Western powers maintained close liaison in the continuing round of talks which began with the breakup of the Big Four conference and the abrupt departure of the Soviet Foreign Minister for Moscow.

The French Foreign Minister (M. Georges Bidault) was understood to have expressed willingness for the three Western Governments to begin negotiations soon in Washington with a view to fusing the French zone of Germany into the Anglo-American area.

Such talks probably would start on a "working level." The British Foreign Secretary (Mr. Ernest Bevin) talked with M. Bidault for a half-hour at the Foreign Office this morning. They were assumed to have discussed the future of Germany and the possibility of uniting the three occupation zones.

The same matters were believed to have been reviewed by Mr. Bevin with Mr. John Foster Dulles (adviser to Mr. Marshall) and Sir Hartley Shawcross (Attorney General) at luncheon in the House of Commons.—United Press

New Figure Announced For Coal Exports

London, Dec. 17.—British coal supplies for export and for bunkers at home and abroad, are to be increased from January 1 from 112,000 tons weekly to 200,000 tons weekly.

Announcing this in the Commons today, Mr. Hugh Gaitskell, the Minister of Fuel said that exports would be to countries participating in the conference of European economic co-operation, and to other countries subject to good return in food, raw materials or dollar savings.

Mr. Gaitskell said at the same time an additional 20,000 tons weekly would be provided for domestic consumers and also 20,000 tons to increase the coke requirements of iron and steel industry.

Emphasising that he had no desire to exaggerate the importance of these developments, Mr. Gaitskell reminded the Commons that exports and bunkers must be increased up to an average of 300,000 tons weekly in the coming year if Britain was to meet her commitments.—Reuter

Britain Increases Price Of Tin By £73 To Record £510 Per Ton

London, Dec. 17.—The Ministry of Supply announced on Tuesday night that the government today is lifting restrictions on domestic licences to buy tin and simultaneously raising the delivered price to British consumers by £73 to a record high of £510 a ton.

City sources predicted an increase of about £70 in prices paid to Malayan and Nigerian producers will follow in a few days.

The new tin price of £510 applies to 99 percent pure tin. Prices for grain bar tin and granulated tin were similarly increased. Grain bar tin was priced at £530 and granulated at £535.

The Financial Times said it learned "announcement of higher prices to be paid for bulk purchase of supplies from Malayan and Nigerian producers is likely later this week."

The Evening News financial editor said Malayan producers probably will get a new price of "near £500 a ton" in place of the present £423.

The Financial Times remarked, "It does not necessarily follow that Malayan and Nigerian producers will receive that the increase is for pure tin 'for their metal, or its equivalent in terms of concentrates, but if the past is any guide, they will."

The Financial Times Investments specialist said the increase of £73 per ton "does not fulfil the most extravagant hopes, but the market should not be disappointed." Tin shares have been firm on the London for weeks. Prices were steady on Tuesday. Interest in today's stock market was centred on tin shares. They advanced.—Associated Press

U.S. NOT SURPRISED

Washington, Dec. 17.—British action in raising the price of tin was met by United States government tin purchasing agencies with a laconic "We knew it was coming."

These quarters said, "London controls the world tin price. Whatever is done there must be reflected here."

This statement referred to tin quotations by the US government Metals Reserve Corporation. It will soon be purchasing for American commercial tin users. These officials declined to say how much more American tin users would have to pay.

They said only, "The London action will cause us to do something with our price, but we do not know what." It was generally felt the London action would be reflected by a closely paralleling price increase here.

TIN CONCENTRATES

Metals Reserve officials are negotiating with Bolivia for tin concentrates. They said, "We have not reached any agreement and did not anticipate any certainly before London tin action was officially announced. Pending this, British action neither we nor the Bolivians sought an agreement. Just how soon an agreement will be reached now is uncertain. The Bolivians are asking a very high figure. The agreement may come within a week or not for months."

Government tin experts said they are acquiring about 50,000 to 75,000 tons of tin yearly from tin sources. Government buyers added, "We are important users but have no control over supply. The British say prices are going up. If we wish to get any tin we will have to pay more here."—Associated Press

"GROSSLY INADEQUATE"

Singapore, Dec. 17.—Mr. H. S. Lee, Chairman of the Malayan Union Chinese Chamber of Mines, said today that the British Government's newly announced increase in the selling price of tin from £437 to £510 a ton was "grossly inadequate."

He doubted whether the present production could be maintained with the price at that level.

ARGENTINA'S CHALLENGE

Havana, Dec. 17.—Argentina is prepared to challenge the United States supremacy in the western hemisphere by offering its own "Peron Plan" of \$5,000,000,000 in loans to needy nations of the world, especially South America.

The dramatic offer was announced in a press conference last night by Mr. Diego Luis Molinari, chief Argentine delegate to the United Nations conference here. He said the Argentine plan should go hand in glove with the Marshall plan.

Mr. Molinari's announcement came amid scathing denunciation of the United States for limiting the Marshall plan aid to nations of Western Europe, despite Argentina's plea that needy nations of the western hemisphere be included. The plan was rejected when proposed by the Argentine delegates at the inter-American defence conference at Rio de Janeiro several months ago.

Mr. Molinari said it was imperative some sort of aid plan for the western hemisphere be started immediately to coincide with the Marshall plan. He emphasised repeatedly in the course of a 30-minute conference that Argentina was prepared to distribute an equivalent of \$5,000,000,000 in loans not only to Latin American nations but to any qualified nation.—United Press

NO ATOMIC WAR YET, PREDICTED

New York, Dec. 17.—It was "reasonably probable" that there would not be an atomic war "for a while yet," General Andrew McNamara, the Canadian member of the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission, said here today.

The United States would maintain its "ascendancy" in the field of atomic energy for at least another 10 years.

General McNamara, addressing the Canadian Club of New York, added that "it would be folly to waste time" in preparing defensive measures.—Reuter

Chiang Kai-Shek A "Fine Character"

Washington, Dec. 17.—Lt. Gen. Albert Wedemeyer today told the Senate Appropriations Committee that he considered Chiang Kai-Shek to be the "logical leader of China today," and urged the United States to aid China commensurate with its ability to help and China's ability to use the aid effectively.

Gen. Wedemeyer said, "I do not think it matters whether Chiang is a benevolent despot, which he is, or a democratic leader. The most important thing is he constantly opposes the Communists." He said Chiang could have made peace with the Japanese "under very favourable terms" during the height of the

Pacific War, thereby releasing "a million and a half Japanese troops to fight the Americans." He said, however, Chiang "chose to remain faithful to his Allies. He is a fine character."

Asked whether he believed it urgent that the United States send military supplies and economic aid to China, Wedemeyer said "emphatically, 'I do.'" He said Chiang "needs and deserves our aid. Chiang leaned over backward to keep his agreements with us. If I were he I would be extremely impatient with the United States."

Wedemeyer said the bulk of military supplies which the United States are liquidating in the Pacific areas could not be used by China since the Chinese Army requires "light equipment."

Arab League "War Council" To Fight

CONFERENCE DECISION

London, Dec. 17.—Arabs will "fight against the Palestine partition—a battle started by the United Nations," a communique issued after the ten-day conference of Arab League "War Council" declared tonight. "The world will see that it is impossible to defeat the Arabs by forces, whatever that force may be."

"The world will see that Arabs were asking for principles of justice and equity to be upheld and that when they resisted the adventure of Zionists they were simply seeking justice among all peoples with the object of removing all causes of dissension and trouble in the Middle East in order to secure peace."

The communique laid all responsibility "for the trouble ahead the extent of which is unknown," on "those who decided to divide Palestine without taking into consideration the consequences."

A source in Cairo in close touch with the Arab League meeting today said that the fear of Communist infiltration into the Middle East formed the background to the ten-day talks and the Council took important decisions, which "may spring a few surprises."

Though the Arab League has decided not to submit the Palestine case to the Security Council, it was believed in Cairo that a non-Arab nation on the Security Council might raise the matter, and that the United Nations might then send the case to the League International Court, which might find legal grounds for invalidating the partition decision.

RACIAL HOLY WAR

Arab leaders are understood to have received reports telling them of marked changes in public opinion in the United States in favour of Arabs amid a corresponding change in the State Department's attitude was forecast.

Nuri Ed Said Pasha, veteran Iraqi statesman, who has been attending the Political Council of the Arab League in Cairo, declared: "The Palestine partition may lead to a racial Holy War that may extend for as long a period as the Crusades."

He denied the recent press reports that he carried a plan to settle all differences between Britain and Arab nations.

An Arab military delegation has left Cairo for Europe to purchase arms for the defence of Palestine against partition. It was learned tonight a senior Arab officer has also left for India on a similar mission.

In Jerusalem tonight, three detachments of steel helmeted British infantry are moving to isolated Jewish colonies in the southern desert of Palestine. It was officially reported.

One detachment was going to the Hula settlement. Royal Air Force planes this afternoon flew over the Beerseba district of southern Palestine after unconfirmed reports of Arab Jewish clashes. Two Jews were wounded today when Arab snipers opened fire on one of the most southerly Jewish settlements in Palestine.—Reuter

POLICE SEARCH

Jerusalem, December 17.—The Palestine police were last night searching Jerusalem and the surrounding districts for a mysterious

armoured car from which shots were thought to have been fired that killed one police sergeant and wounded another.

However, the police were not able to confirm that the shots had in fact actually been fired from the vehicle.

The two sergeants were believed to be victims of the other gang—a Jewish terrorist organisation—using an armoured car which, according to Jewish sources, was stolen from Jaffa by Arabs a week ago.

Police headquarters have denied that an armoured car is missing. Three Jewish settlement police and one Jew were wounded when Arabs attacked three Jewish settlements in the Negev area.

The Arab attacks on the settlements which are in the desert area in southern Palestine, were launched at intervals. The Hula settlement sent out an S.O.S. for reinforcements, according to reports from a Jewish source, who claimed that three Jewish settlement police, rushing to the Hula settlement, were shot and reported to be killed.

The attack on these policemen was said to have been made by Camel Corps marksmen of the Palestine police.

A police announcement said simply: "It is believed that the Camel Corps had been in action."

A Baghdad report says that evening papers last night declared that it was "confirmed by reliable quarters" that the Iraq army is now ready to join the Arab armies for the Palestine battle.

Unconfirmed reports say that 150,000 armed men are awaiting the signal to march.—Reuter

PLANS FOR JUDEA

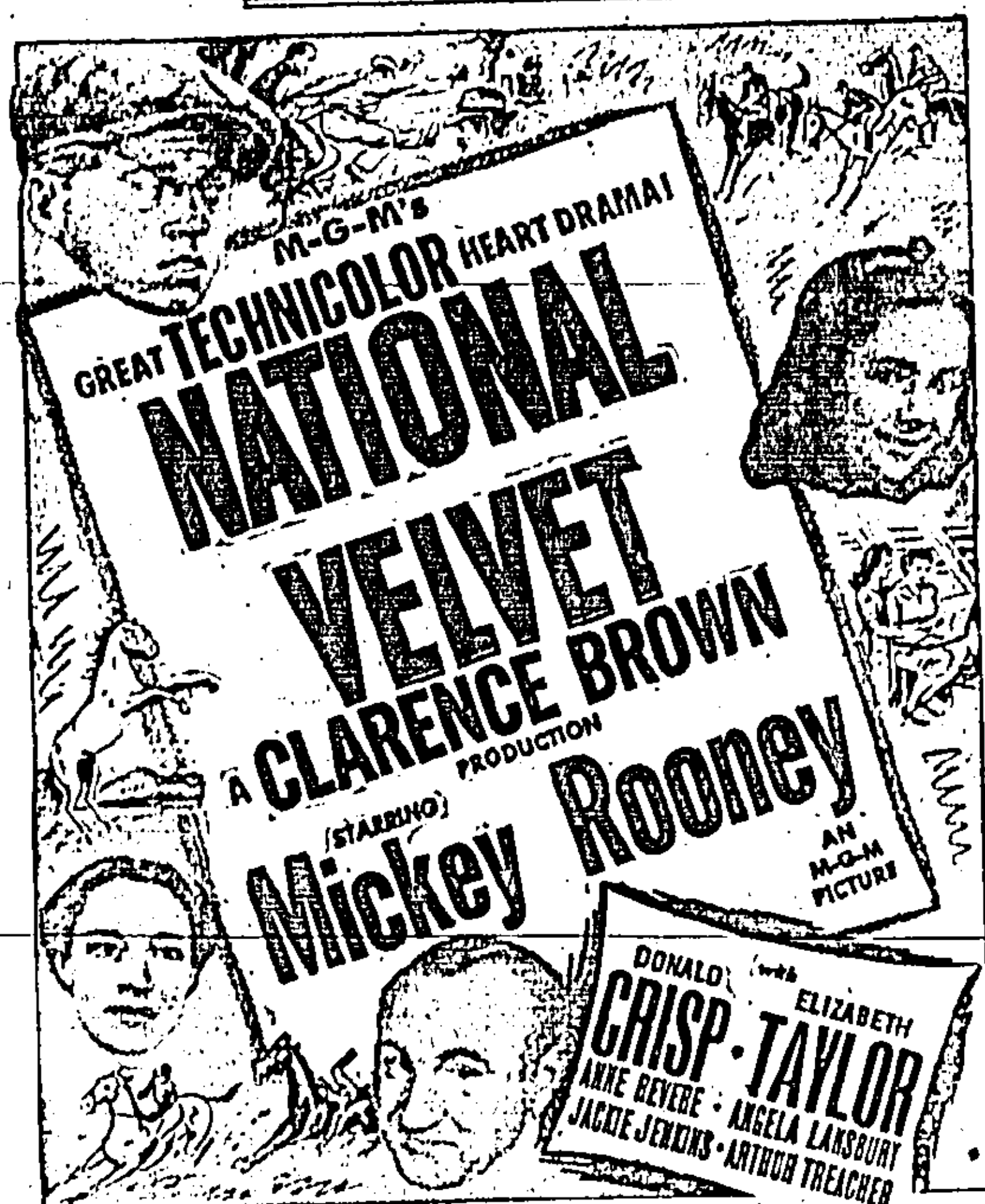
London, Dec. 18.—A Jewish Agency leader said today that plans for Judea—a projected name for Jewish Palestine—would provide for Swiss-like neutrality in any possible World war.

At the same time, another Jewish spokesman pointed out that an "indefinite period of conflict" with anti-partitionist Arabs was envisaged for the new state, and to meet that threat any army of at least 10,000 would have to be maintained. It would mean an initial weekly expenditure of US\$500,000, he said.

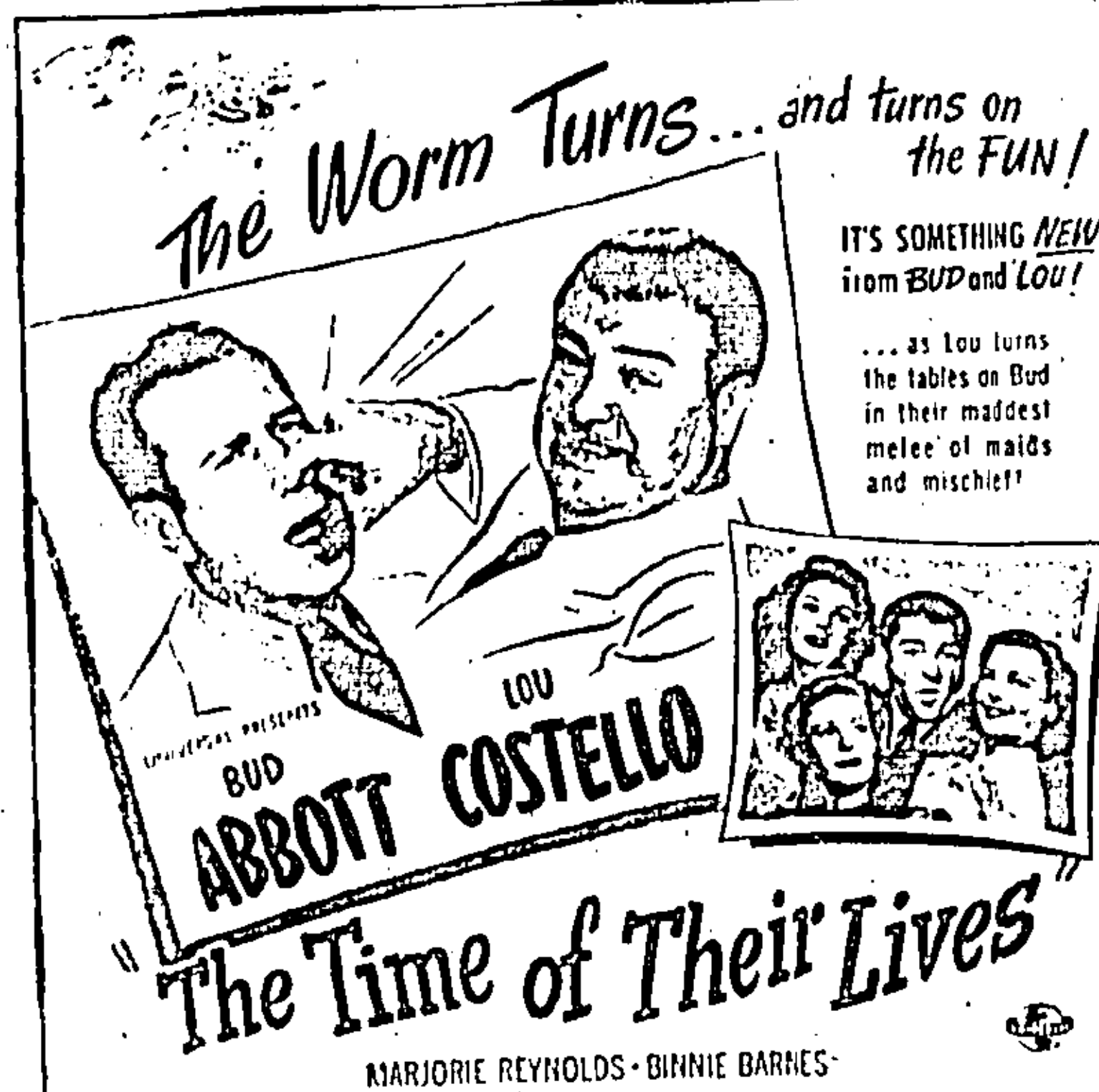
Dr. Nahum Goldman, member of the Jewish Agency Executive, asserted in an interview that Jewish legal experts, now working on the draft constitution for the Jewish nation, has included a neutrality clause aimed at promoting "friendliness for all, enmity towards none."

He explained that perpetual neutrality for the new country would be justified on grounds that millions of Jews would still remain scattered throughout the world.—Associated Press

SHOWING TO-DAY **KING'S** AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m.

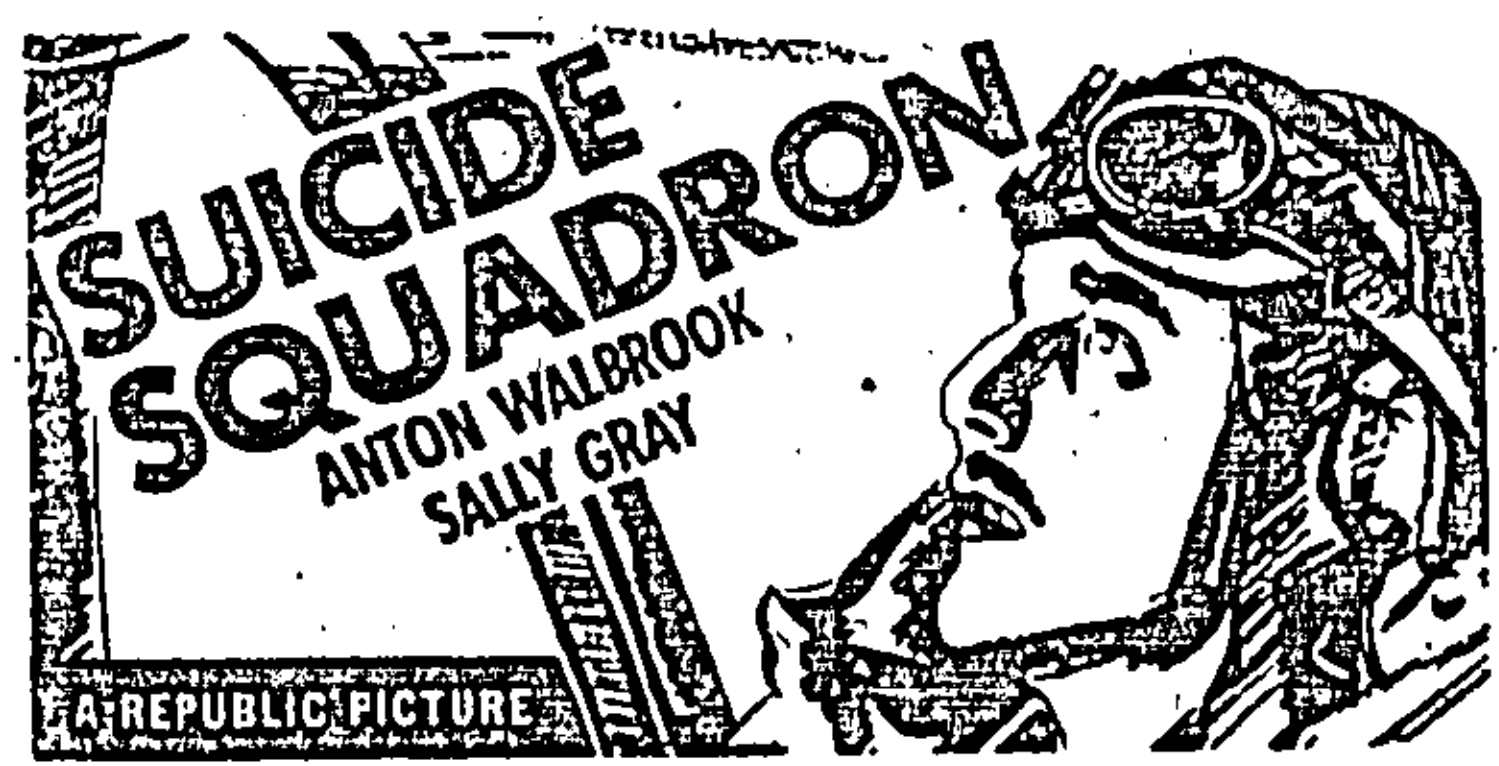


ALHAMBRA THEATRE
SHOWING TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 P.M.



ORIENTAL

FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY: 2.30—5.20—7.20—9.20 P.M.
RISING ABOVE THE FLAMES OF A WAR-TORN WORLD COMES THIS THRILLING, HEART-WARMING LOVE STORY!



COMMENCING TO-MORROW: "GUADALCANAL DIARY"

TO-DAY **Cathay** AT 2.30 5.20, ONLY. 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.

IT'S THE GAY WHITE WAY AT ITS GAYEST!
Ann SHERIDAN • Dennis MORGAN • Jack CARSON in
"SHINE ON HARVEST MOON"
WARNER'S GRAND MUSICAL HIT!

TO-MORROW
ACTION! ADVENTURE! SPECTACLE! ROMANCE!
John WAYNE
Marlene DIETRICH
Randolph SCOTT in
"THE SPOILERS"
with Margaret LINDSAY • Harry CAREY

SHOWING TO-DAY **MAJESTIC** AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.

THE INSIDE STORY OF RADAR!
THE SECRET THAT MILLIONS KEPT!
RALPH RICHARDSON
in
"SCHOOL FOR SECRETS"
COMMENCING FRIDAY
"TARZAN and HUNTRESS"
Starring JOHNNY WEISSMULLER

Sefton Delmer's NEWSMAP

PARIS, Dec. 18.
A FRENCH politician I know has put what he calls a "vellum" on his bedside table—a tiny electric night-lamp showing a faint blue light. And although he is not an extravagant man or prone to seeing things in the dark, he keeps that lamp on all night.

"That way," he says, "I know what is happening as soon as I open my eyes. If the light is on, I can go to sleep again. But if I find it is out, I shall get dressed at once and leave the house."

"For if the light goes out that means that the Communists have called out the power station, and that means the Government will have to put soldiers in to work the power station."

"The Communists are bound to resist that, and voila, we have open civil war. If there is civil war I do not want to be caught at home in my bed."

Now, I believe my nervous politician-friend is taking a somewhat over-dramatic view of the situation. Nevertheless, I, too, have taken to switching on the lights at odd hours of the night ever since the Government put its new decrees before the Chamber of Deputies and the Communists started their filibuster against them.

For though I do not anticipate any shooting or civil war, I am convinced these next days are going to be of

decisive significance in the battle now being fought out in France, as it is being fought out in Italy.

And the outcome of that battle—the same old battle between the Communists and the Westerners led by the Americans—is of vital importance to you and me and all of us who, for better or for worse, depend for much of our bread and butter on the prosperity of the Western World.

On or off—the lights will show which way things are going. They will help to reveal—

Whether the Communist hold over organized labour is strong enough for them to defy the Government and carry on in France the campaign against Western capitalism—democracy. It will show whether they can undermine the country with strike after strike, and create a revolutionary situation in which they might themselves seize power.

Whether the Government—though based on the two parties most heavily defeated in the recent municipal elections—has enough authority and is strong enough to fight the Communists and restore stability.

Whether the only alternative to Communist dictatorship is the s.e.m. — Authoritarian General de Gaulle, victor of the municipal elections.

Pay question

TWO things make me believe that this coming week ought to give us a good idea of how the battle is going to turn out, although it is not actually going to be the end of the battle.

In the first place, everyone working here had a pay day this week-end, whether they were paid by the week, the fortnight, or the month. That is important. For in France the unions do not distribute strike pay.

Some categories of workers, like the post-office clerks, civil servants and teachers, who are paid by the month, may have hesitated up to now to obey the strike orders of their Communist bosses because they did not want to lose their month's wages. Now they have got them and they are free to strike—if they want to.

If they do not strike, that means the Communists have lost their hold over this important class.

Secondly, the new Prime Minister, hard-mouthed Robert Schuman, whom the Communists call a Prussian and a Boche because he was born in Alsace, is gambling on the success of the strike because the anti-strike laws he is rushing through Parliament.

Schuman and his supporters hope that these laws will cause the return of a large number of workers who joined the strike only because they were afraid of the Communists.

Their rights

It is possible, however, that the new decrees will have the opposite effect. They are so general that they appear to make all strikes illegal. Many workers who were hitherto lukewarm in supporting what they held to be a political strike organised at the bidding of the Communist Organisation may join it now in order to defend their elementary right to strike.

France learns the language of the lights

In that case it will depend on how effectively and how tactfully the Government uses its new powers and the troops it is hurriedly mobilising.

Certainly up to the present support of the strike seems to have been far from complete and far from enthusiastic. And that despite the fact that the people asked to strike are suffering extreme hardship.

Communist leader Thorez, returning by rail from his trip to Moscow yesterday, must have been disgusted when he arrived at the French frontier to find that he could perfectly well have proceeded to Paris by train, and that he did not need the car which had been optimistically sent to meet him.

M. Thorez's express is by no means the only train still running, and the number of railway workers releasing as the police remove Communist sit-down groups from the locomotive sheds.

At the St Lazare station I talked to a railway porter, said: "I cannot afford to strike, I need the pay, therefore I do not strike."

The driver and mate of an electric train which had just come in said: "We are not striking, because this is a purely political strike. The strike is against France."

Both men said they had been struck off their union lists. But that did not worry them. "In France," said the driver, "it is necessary for a man to belong to a union to work."

Not secret

I HAD a drink in a large cafe near the big Renault motor-car factory, which is a nationalised concern.

"The strike goes on," said a man in a leather coat, "it was decided by a show of hands."

"If there was a secret ballot?"

"Two-thirds would vote against."

"Well, why don't they just go back to work?" I asked.

"The Communists have occupied the works."

"Would you be pleased if the Government sent troops or military to remove them?"

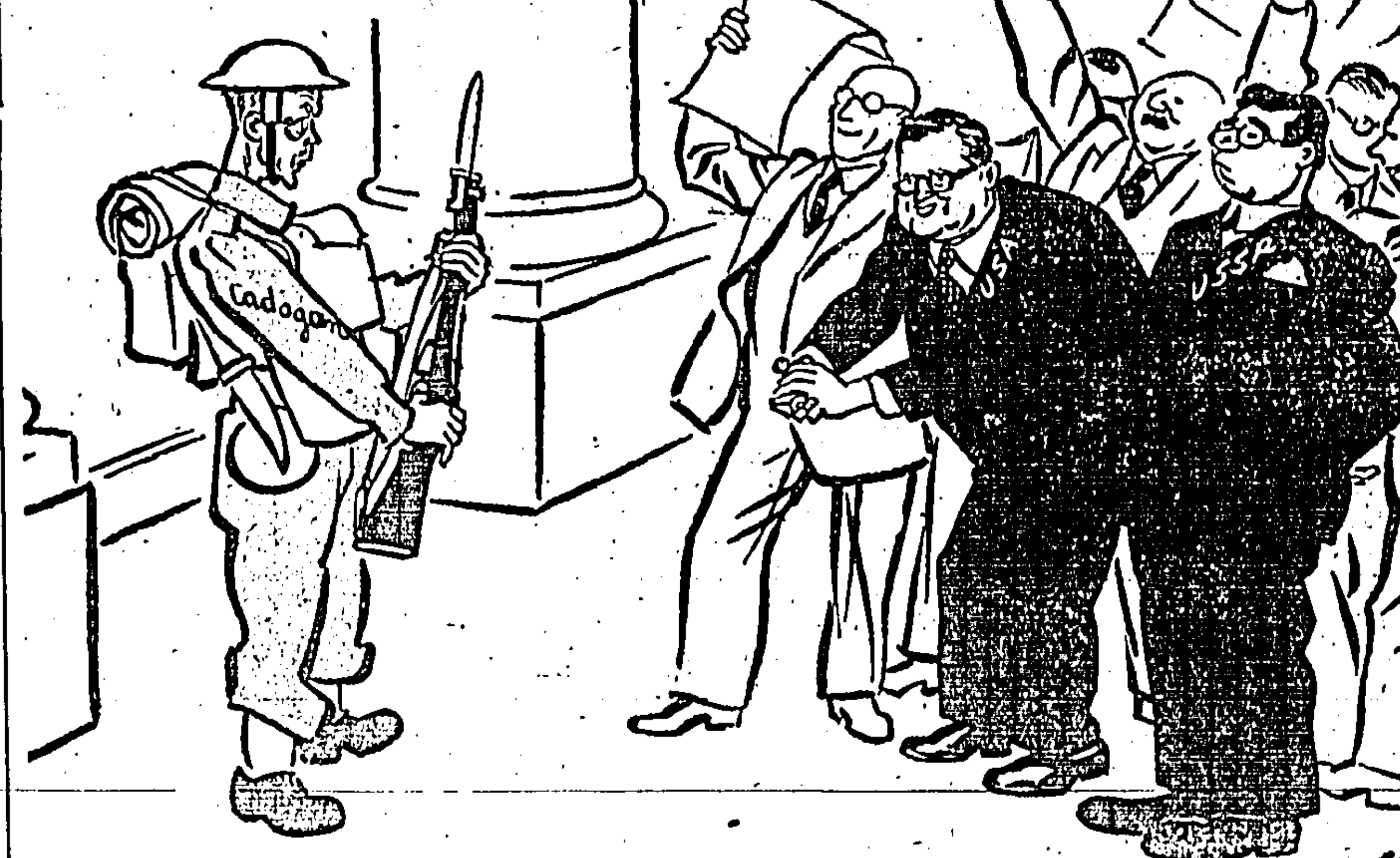
"Yes, we want to get back to work. This is really just a political strike." There it was, the same phrase again.

Yes, it looks as though the big Communist offensive will turn into a big Communist retreat.

They are in a difficult dilemma, and must decide between two courses—

WHETHER to risk all in carrying on the strikes and facing the Government forces here and now in the bitter cold weather and risk even greater unpopularity for the Communists; or

"OH, GOOD! ALL READY TO FIGHT THE ARABS, EH?"
"NO—ALL READY TO FIGHT PEOPLE WHO WANT ME TO FIGHT THE ARABS"



PALESTINE DAY AT THE U.N.

By Low

IN AND OUT OF PARLIAMENT

By ERNEST THURTELL, M.P.

THERE is considerable disappointment at the announcement that the withdrawal of British troops from Palestine will not be completed before August next.

Earlier official statements had created the impression that the Government had decided upon withdrawal much sooner than this.

Disappointment will, I predict, change to indignation if, after all, withdrawal is so delayed that the task of keeping the peace while an unpopular UNO policy is being put into operation falls upon already sorely tried British soldiers.

There are on record many official assurances that such an unfortunate situation would not be allowed to arise.

A GOOD man struggling with adversity is said to make the gods weep.

Mr Clem Davies, the sincere and able leader of the Liberal Parliamentary Party, must surely come within this category.

It is hard enough to lead a party in a forlorn fight when it is united and its spirits are high.

But when morale cracks and defections begin, even stout-hearted leadership must incline to despair.

Some desert to the Right, some to the Left. Mr Tom Horabin has come over to Labour, and his indignant local party invites him to resign.

Perhaps his change is not surprising, for he was always to the Left of his party.

But rumour has it (I know the jade has a habit of lying) that someone with a famous Liberal name is likely to follow in the Horabin footsteps.

Should that happen "Ichabod" might indeed be scrawled across the drooping banners of a once-great political party.

IT was good to be in a peaceful House of Commons the other evening when the second reading of the National Public Assistance Bill passed without a division.

Mr Aneurin Bevan, in moving this measure, in a speech which for him was restrained yet quietly exultant, was in effect conducting the burial service of the old Poor Law, born three centuries ago in Elizabethan England.

It says much for the way the social conscience of the country has changed that no dissentient voice was raised against the proposal.

In the course of the years much has been done to soften the harshness of the old law, and many worthy people within living memory, but no longer with us, worked hard in that cause.

One listened and felt a certain regret that fate had not permitted these people, such as the Webbs and George Lansbury, to see their labours brought to final fruition.

PARTY reaction to the Dalton affair confirms my belief that the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer will be back in the Government before many months have passed. The feeling that he is too good a man to lose from the Ministerial team is as strong as the sympathy felt for him personally, and that is saying much.

One by-product of the incident in the Labour ranks is a feeling of resentment against the Press in general, and talk of need for restricting facilities hitherto enjoyed by lobby correspondents.

I do not believe that anything that has yet happened establishes a case for such repressive action, and take the view that the good sense of the House will be against it.

BY THE WAY by Beachcomber

THE Strabismus Rocket stands almost ready for the great attempt to reach the moon. The Doctor is awaiting final weather reports from the stratosphere.

Meanwhile the people of War-glant Parva, staring over the roped enclosure, can see the great black monster, balanced between huge stanchions set in concrete, and pointing its blunt nozzle at the sky, as though it already sniffed the lunar air. The Doctor will be accompanied by Professor Denderant, the eminent authority on thaumaturgies from Basingstoke University. Sir Ray Hoplite, lecturer in automatic metaphysics at the Colorado Springs Institute, Sir Archer Tatham, the barometrist, and Professor Alban Trowie, representing Unesco.

First editions
THE fuss about first editions has always amused me. First editions of my own books are exceedingly rare already, and worth about fourpence a dozen. Yet I believe I could be getting as much as sixpence a dozen if my publishers had only taken care to get a few copies printed with my initials wrong or with a misplaced comma on the fly-leaf.

A nasty occurrence
REFERRING to my conviction that small politicians on holiday

should be thrown back into the sea, my representative on the East Coast sends me this cutting:

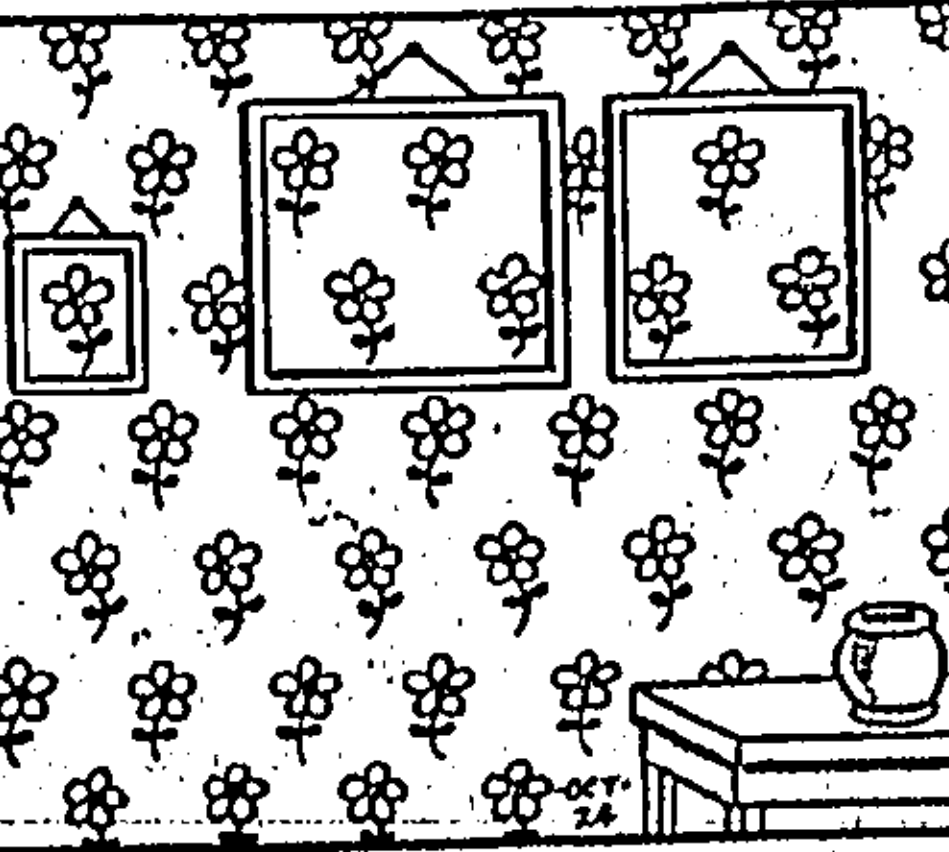
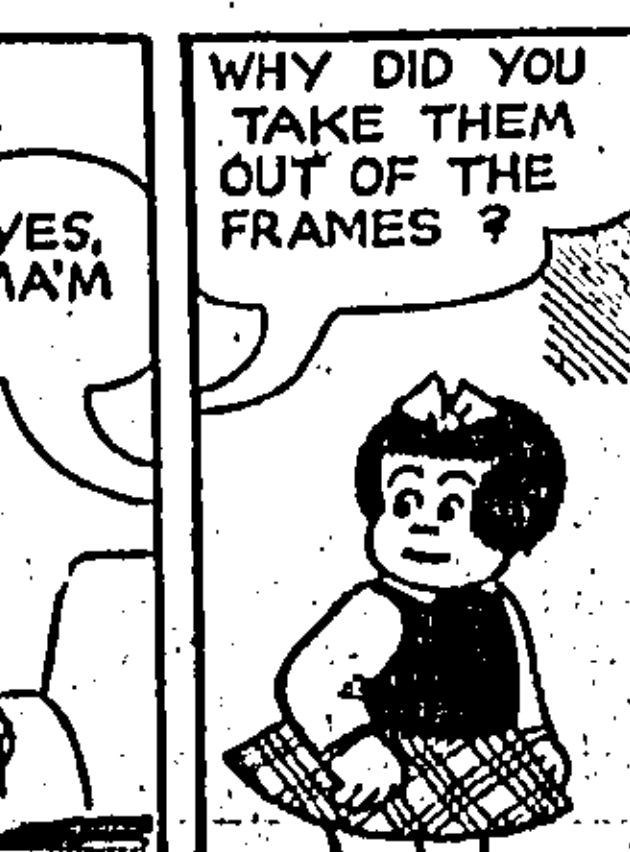
To prevent fish rotting on the quays, fishermen threw back large quantities of the other day. The mayor, who superintended the work, was just in time to rescue a politician from a pile of fish. Asked how he recognised him among the fish, the mayor said: "He was the only one wearing a hat." It was afterwards discovered that the politician had gone bad some months ago, and was so rotten that many fish had cut him on the quay.

Not much progress to report

SUET pressed a button and shouted: "Send in Miss Golightly." And in came That Theoretician. "In re nationalisation of schedules," said Suet, "what have you in our files?" Nathanielthathion of Thedalth? repeated the girl. "Yes," snarled Suet, "and don't thammer." "It isn't a th-thirdly," replied the secretary nervously, "it's a lilt." "Skip it," said Suet rudely, for that mild man was in a vile temper. "Who?" asked the secretary. "Who what?" replied Suet. "I don't understand," said Miss Golightly. "Neither of us ever understands," growled Suet. "That's why this place is like a madhouse." Miss Golightly, frowning left the room on tiptoe.

By Ernie Bushmiller.

NANCY A Matter of Taste



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Women BEAUTY ARTS

By LOIS LEEDS



Posed by Renie for Lois Leeds.

A Prediction—which should be read by every woman.

PREDICTION!

"Dresses are longer now!" So said Renie, designer of R. K. O.—Radio-Studies. She said it quietly and firmly. "Dresses are longer now." So there you have it! And they are! And when the dresses are a bit longer you look "funny" if you don't drop yours.

Renie is a charming, young American designer, a product of the U.S.A., and she does an outstanding and artistic job. Styles in the movies are Predictions. They set the pace and a designer just has to be right. She designs for the movies, yes, but she is also giving ideas to the audience!

Renie was wearing her skirt longer. Not very much, but definitely longer than many of the women at the luncheon. Her beige suit was topped by a "longer" jacket. A beige hat and blouse harmonized with her Golden accessories.

If you have Beautiful Legs, don't keep on wearing the short skirt. Your legs will look just as beautiful with that added inch or so of skirt length. It's just a new look now and you'll want that look. So, let down your skirt!

Mimi Makey
by GABRIELLE



When you are in a hurry and your hair "looks a mess", dampen it with cologne and roll up the ends on soft wire curlers. Cleanse your face with cream and remove with tissues. Let that be your base. A touch of cream-rouge, powder well, brush it smooth. A touch to lips, a touch to eyes—and there you are!

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"You can put me down for a 1948 model, but I won't turn this one in, brother—I'm not taking any chances on a new one breaking down!"

Mona Lisa's Return Brings Him Joy

BY JAMES MCGILINCY

Paris—The little man who wouldn't tell his name was happy—Mona Lisa had come home. "For twenty years we've lived together," he said. He looked at Mona and smiled and she smiled back at him, with that queer, questioning personal smile she has.

THE KING'S REPORTER IN COMMONS

The recent appointment of Mr Ernest Popplewell, Member for Newcastle West in the House of Commons, as Vice-Chamberlain of the Royal Household, recalls an ancient traditional custom in Britain. As Vice-Chamberlain, it is Mr Popplewell's duty to act as personal "reporter" to King George VI in the House of Commons and it is his duty, after each sitting, to write a brief account of the day's proceedings and convey it by personal messenger or telegraph to His Majesty.

This custom dates from the reign of George III, and arises from the fact that the Sovereign is the only person in the whole world who is not allowed to listen to a Commons debate. The last Sovereign who set foot in the House was Charles I, and his visit precipitated a chain of events that cost him his head.

Disraeli's News Sense

The library at Buckingham Palace has preserved these nightly reports for more than 150 years, and they form a fascinating record of British politics. The styles adopted by different chroniclers have differed widely. Disraeli was in turn witty, malicious and canny, and his reports show that he had a keen news sense.

The report is usually written in the early hours of the morning, and on one occasion Queen Victoria was astonished on opening her despatch box to find in it not only the report, but a pipe and tobacco left there accidentally by Lord Randolph Churchill, father of Mr Winston Churchill.

Today, with Hansard's verbatim reports and newspaper reports, there is slight necessity for the existence of the "King's Reporter." But the House of Commons is always jealous of its traditions and reluctant to allow them to die.

Copper Saved The Museum's Dome

The copper covering the British Museum's reading room roof—the second largest dome in the world—saved the roof from worse damage when an oil bomb fell on it during a raid in 1941. This was disclosed by E. Carr, building engineer to the Copper Development Association, speaking at Liverpool University.

He said that had the roof melted, molten material would have cascaded down the interior of the building, spread fire and would have caused irreparable losses to the Museum's libraries.

"The dome escaped with very little damage," he stated. "The bomb casing alone penetrated the roof, and oil ejected from the casing poured flaming down the dome into the deep 'snow gallery' where it burnt itself out."

Recent inspection of the dome showed that, although it had been exposed to weather for 90 years the condition of the copper was remarkable.

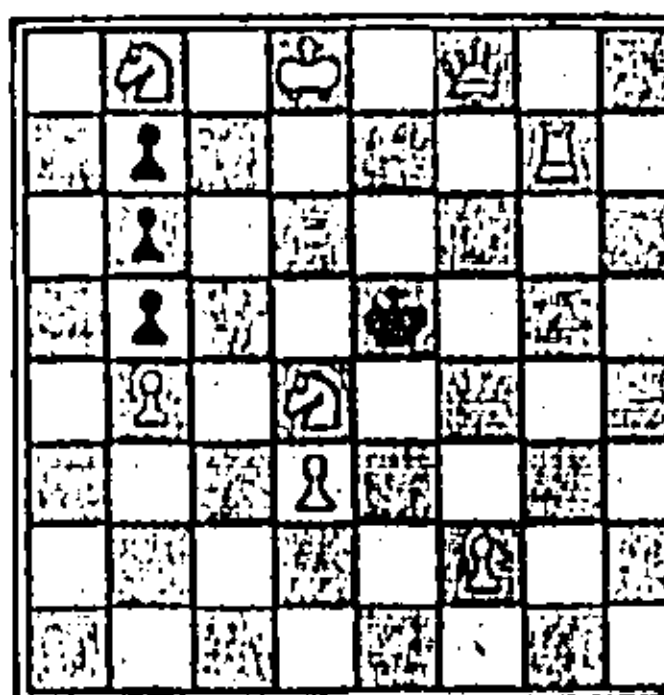
Check Your Knowledge

1. What is the meaning of the expression "between Scylla and Charybdis"?
2. What does the square on the hypotenuse equal?
3. How many joints in a rattlesnake's tongue?
4. What name is given to a painting done on a wall?
5. Who was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson?
6. Which falls more quickly, a heavy or a light object?

(Answers on Page 4)

CHESS PROBLEM

By B. HULSEN
Black 4 pieces.



White to play and mate in two.
Solution to yesterday's problem:
1. K-K4; 2. R-R1; 3. Kt others; 2. Q-K4 (bb).

"Now she is back where she belongs in her old place, in the place where I've always known her."

He wore a blue uniform like all the guards at the Louvre, with a little row of service ribbons from the war. But he wasn't like the other guards, no matter what he wore. He was Mona Lisa's boy friend.

Perhaps It's Music
"Yes, I love her," he said. "That ironic smile. For 20 years I have watched that smile. But I never understand it. I think perhaps she is listening to music and it brings the memories and so she smiles like that."

During the war the little man and Mona Lisa were separated. She was in hiding. The Louvre was closed. The little man had a fighting job to do.

When the war ended, they came back. But Mona Lisa was stuck in a corner, leaning against the wall. Then finally they put her back on her throne—the spot of honour in the Italian room.

The little man looked at a painting hanging on the opposite wall, a Titian portrait of Francis I, King of France.

Rival On Wall

"He loves her, too," he said. His eyes twinkled. "All the time they look at each other."

Actually there was a historical basis for his statement, for it was Francis I who bought the Mona Lisa for France from Leonardo da Vinci toward the end of the artist's life. Francis was only one of millions of men who have fallen for the mysterious smile.

The little man said he was married and had grandchildren. No, his wife wasn't jealous of the smiling lady. She didn't know how he felt. Nor did the other guards.

"Nobody knows except her," he said, nodding toward the portrait of the serene lady.

MEMORIAL TO ROOSEVELT

London's Grosvenor Square has been reclaimed as Britain's memorial to Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Landscaping architecture and gardening will be virtually completed by Christmas, and the memorial setting will then await only the 10-foot bronze figure of the late President.

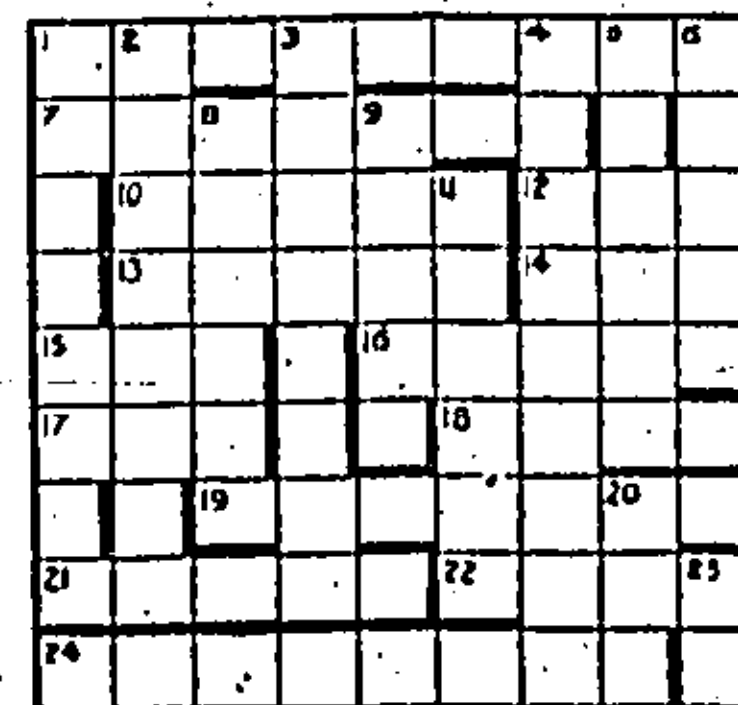
Controversy over whether the statue would be a seated or standing figure—criticism which threatened to delay the memorial—has been forgotten. The dedication will take place as planned, on April 12, third anniversary of the President's death. Associated Press.

She Rejuvenated The Angel

Good intentions do not always pay. A citizen of the little Bohemian spa of Lazne, Belovar discovered this recently, when she decided that the statue of the guardian angel in the market square was looking drab and needed some "freshening up."

Without consulting the local authorities, the lady had the statue covered with bright paint. However, the local custodian of historic monuments ruled that the "rejuvenation" was "unsuitable" and ordered the lady to wash off the paint. Associated Press.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across
1. Limp (3 letters). (9)
10. A mountain range. (6)
11. This made round Birmingham way. (3)
12. It wasn't much of a debate unless you did. (5)
13. Nautically when he's before the morning breeze. (6)
14. It's a long time. (3)
15. They may be found in pairs. (2)
17. This entity is of no importance. (2)

Down
2. A musical performer in relation to his name of time. (7)
3. Denudes of strength. (4)
4. He is usually rested after a shukka. (5, 4)
5. 1 and 21. Olden days. (9, 8)
6. The children look upon it in the raw as a hollow stick. (10)
7. To linger that is to say feminine. (6)
8. He claims his man was the last of the line. (6)
9. Down when cooked is this. (6)
10. They can be taken on four legs or four wheels. (6)
11. More than relief, stops in fact. (6)
12. Take a peep at this person. (8)
13. Even doubted it's only moderate. (6)
14. A picture of a woman's nose. Across
1. Maple tree. (5) Obtains U. S. Pat. 9. (10)
2. Editor. (6) 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 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